



Howard County Government
Department of Recreation & Parks
News Release

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Howard County Tennis Programs Recognized by United States Tennis Association

COLUMBIA, MD – The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks' tennis programs were presented the 2018 USTA Mid-Atlantic Innovative Sport Program Achievement Award on July 21. The award was bestowed during the halftime of the Washington Kastles tennis team match at the Smith Center on George Washington University's campus.

"This award recognizes an organization within the USTA Mid-Atlantic community that is consistently creating innovative, impactful and inclusive programming for their community and growing the game for the betterment of all" stated USTA Mid-Atlantic Section's Event Manager Shell Wood in the notification email.

"Getting folks, especially kids, up and active these days can be a challenge," stated Department of Recreation & Parks Director John R. Byrd. "But this award demonstrates how committed and innovative our staff are in making Howard County a healthy place to live and we appreciate the recognition by the USTA."

Some examples of impactful program initiatives over the past year include Girls Rule the Court, Boys Rule the Court, and the TGA Youth Premier Tennis Before & After School program. Between Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, the TGA Youth Premier tennis program grew from 143 students at nine schools to 252 students at 20 schools, providing over 583 students the opportunity to learn and play tennis.

Additionally, the Department offers special programs that allow the entire family to be involved. Examples include a Parent/Child tennis group geared towards parents playing and learning tennis alongside their children and the Play Time Tennis program that teaches tennis fundamentals to children as young as three years. 146 youth tennis classes were offered this year (not including the TGA Youth Premier Tennis Before & After School program) as well as 84 adult and senior tennis programs.

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To learn more about the County's tennis programs, visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/tennis>. For more information about the County's Department of Recreation and Parks, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP.

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